

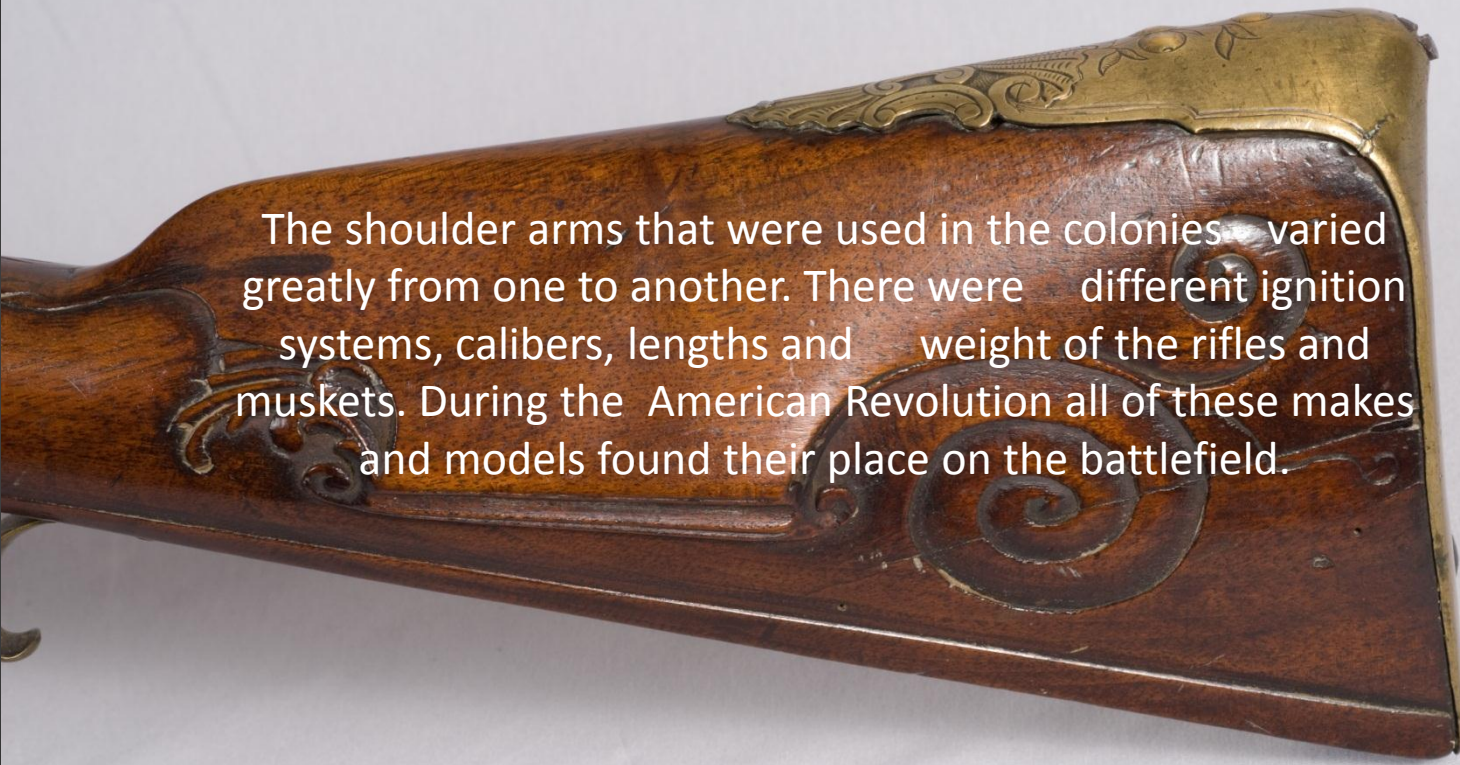
# Shoulder Arms of the American Revolution

George C. Neumann Collection,  
Valley Forge National Historical Park



VAFO 00000171

04/30/2008



The shoulder arms that were used in the colonies varied greatly from one to another. There were different ignition systems, calibers, lengths and weight of the rifles and muskets. During the American Revolution all of these makes and models found their place on the battlefield.

# Musket

Although many makes and models of muskets were used during the American Revolution, they all had some similarities. They were all smoothbore, muzzle loading flintlocks fired from the shoulder. Most ranged from .69 caliber to .80 caliber with some exceptions. The ammunition was a paper cartridge preloaded with black powder and a lead ball.

# English Dog-Lock Musket, c. 1690-1710

VAFO101

VAFO 00000101  
04/30/2008



- Weight: 8.9 lbs.
- Length: 61½"

- Caliber: .79
- Barrel: 46⅞"



# English Dog-Lock Musket, c. 1710-1720

VAFO103

VAFO 00000103  
04/30/2008



- Weight: 8.0 lbs.
- Length: 57"

- Caliber: .77
- Barrel: 41"



# English Long-Land Service Musket, c. 1728

VAFO105

VAFO 00000105  
05/01/2008



- Weight: 9.4 lbs.
- Length: 62 1/8"

- Caliber: .77
- Barrel: 46"



# English Long-Land Service Musket, c. 1730-1740

VAFO106

VAFO 00000106  
04/30/2008



- Weight: 9.8 lbs.
- Length: 62 1/8"

- Caliber: .75
- Barrel: 46"



# English Long Land Musket, c. 1761

VAFO107

VAFO 00000107  
04/30/2008



- Weight: 10.8 lbs.
- Length: 62"

- Caliber: .79
- Barrel: 46"



# English Militia Musket, c. 1756

VAFO108

VAFO 00000108  
04/30/2008



- Weight: 10.0 lbs.
- Length: 57½"

- Caliber: .78
- Barrel: 42"



# English India Pattern Musket, c. 1779

VAFO110



- Weight: 9.2 lbs.  
- Length: 54  $\frac{3}{4}$ "

- Caliber: .75  
- Barrel: 39"



# English Naval Musket, c. 1759

VAFO111

VAFO 00000111  
05/01/2008



- Weight: 8.7 lbs.  
- Length: 55"

- Caliber: .80  
- Barrel: 38  $\frac{3}{4}$ "



# English Naval Musket, c. 1756

VAFO112

VAFO 00000112  
05/01/2008



- Weight: 9.3 lbs.  
Length: 57 ¾"

- Caliber: .78 -  
- Barrel: 42"



# Spanish Infantry Musket, c. 1750-1791

VAFO114

VAFO 00000114  
05/01/2008



- Weight: 8.6 lbs.  
Length: 59 5/8"

- Caliber: .72 -  
- Barrel: 43 1/2"



# French Infantry Musket, c. 1777

VAFO125

VAFO 00000125  
05/01/2008



- Weight: 8.8 lbs.  
Length: 59  $\frac{7}{8}$ "

- Caliber: .69 -  
- Barrel: 44  $\frac{3}{4}$ "



# German Musket, c. 1770-1786

VAFO128

VAFO 00000128  
05/01/2008



- Weight: 9.8 lbs.  
- Length: 57"

- Caliber: .71  
- Barrel: 41 ¼"



# German-Dutch Musket, c. 1770-1786

VAFO135



- Weight: 10.8 lbs.
- Length: 50  $\frac{3}{8}$ "

- Caliber: .78
- Barrel: 42  $\frac{1}{8}$ "



# German Musket, c. 1750-1770

VAFO136



- Weight: 9.0 lbs.

- Length: 57  $\frac{3}{8}$ "

- Caliber: .75

- Barrel: 42  $\frac{1}{8}$ "



# American Musket, c. 1775-1780

VAFO139

VAFO 00000139  
04/30/2008



- Weight: 9.8 lbs.
- Length: 58"

- Caliber: .78
- Barrel: 42"



# American Musket, c. 1770-1783

VAFO140

VAFO 00000140  
05/01/2008



- Weight: 8.9 lbs.
- Length: 62  $\frac{3}{8}$ "

- Caliber: .74
- Barrel: 46  $\frac{1}{2}$ "



# American Militia Musket, c. 1760-1777

VAFO142

VAFO 00000142  
04/30/2008



- Weight: 8.6 lbs.
- Length: 63"

- Caliber: .78
- Barrel: 47 ¼"



# American Musket, c. 1760-1776

VAFO143

VAFO 00000143  
05/01/2008



- Weight: 8.6 lbs.
- Length: 60  $\frac{1}{8}$ "

- Caliber: .72
- Barrel: 44  $\frac{1}{8}$ "



# Fowler

Fowling arms were primarily used for hunting waterfowl during the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. These pieces saw use during the American Revolution with militias. The Fowler was operationally similar to the musket but longer and there was no place to attach a bayonet.

# American "Hudson Valley" Fowler, c. 1730-1740

VAFO146

VAFO 00000146  
04/30/2008



- Weight: 10.3 lbs.  
Length: 75"

- Caliber: .75 -  
- Barrel: 59"



# American "Hudson Valley" Fowler, c. 1740

VAFO147

VAFO 00000147  
04/30/2008



- Weight: 10.7 lbs.
- Length: 75  $\frac{3}{4}$ "

- Caliber: .65
- Barrel: 60"



# American Club Butt Fowler, c. 1740-1750

VAFO148

VAFO 00000148  
04/30/2008



- Weight: 8.3 lbs.
- Length: 66 ¼"

- Caliber: .72
- Barrel: 50 ⅝"



# Fusil and Carbine

Fusils and carbines are smaller caliber and lighter weapons than a musket having a .65 or smaller caliber. These two types of shoulder arms were primarily used by soldiers on horseback and light infantry who needed to move quickly. Officers and non-commissioned officers in regular infantry units would often carry these light weight firearms into battle.

# French Fusil, c. 1758-1763

VAFO151



- Weight: 8.3 lbs.  
- Length: 55"

- Caliber: .72  
- Barrel: 39 ½"



# French Officers Fusil, c. 1760

VAFO152

VAFO 00000152  
04/29/2008



- Weight: 7.6 lbs.
- Length: 54  $\frac{7}{8}$ "

- Caliber: .71
- Barrel: 40  $\frac{5}{8}$ "



# Dutch Fusil, c. 1775-1780

VAFO153

VAFO 00000153

04/29/2008



- Weight: 6.9 lbs.

- Length: 53  $\frac{7}{8}$ "

- Caliber: .67

- Barrel: 39"



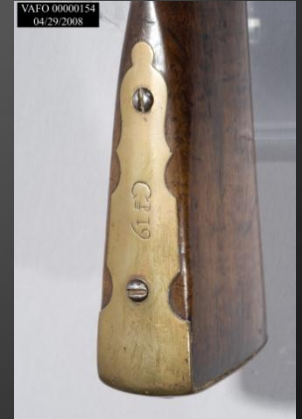
# German Fusil, c. 1765-1780

VAFO154



- Weight: 7.5 lbs.
- Length: 53"

- Caliber: .73
- Barrel: 39"



# English Light Dragoon Carbine, c. 1750-1765

VAFO157

VAFO 00000157  
04/29/2008



- Weight: 6.0 lbs.
- Length: 47 1/8"

- Caliber: .68
- Barrel: 31 3/8"



# English Light Dragoon Carbine, c. 1756-1760

VAFO158

VAFO 00000158  
04/29/2008



- Weight: 7.0 lbs.
- Length: 51  $\frac{7}{8}$ "

- Caliber: .67
- Barrel: 36  $\frac{3}{8}$ "



# English Light Infantry Carbine, c. 1757

VAFO159

VAFO 00000159  
04/29/2008



- Weight: 7.1 lbs.
- Length: 57 ½"

- Caliber: .65
- Barrel: 42"



# Rifle

Rifling dates back to the mid 16<sup>th</sup> century but was not used by battlefield commanders due to its slow rate of fire and lack of a bayonet. However, it saw heavy use with frontiersmen and sharpshooters in rifle companies. One of the most famous rifle companies was Morgan's Rifles who helped stopped General John Burgoyne's army in the Second Battle of Saratoga.

# German Wheel Lock Rifle, c. 1590

VAFO164



- Weight: 5.6 lbs.
- Length: 33  $\frac{5}{8}$ "

- Caliber: .75
- Barrel: 22  $\frac{3}{4}$ "



# German Jaeger Hunting Rifle, c. 1730-1740

VAFO167

VAFO 00000167  
04/29/2008



- Weight: 7.8 lbs.
- Length: 44"

- Caliber: .51
- Barrel: 29"



# German Jaeger, c. 1740-1760

VAFO168



- Weight: 8.0 lbs.  
- Length: 38"

- Caliber: .60  
- Barrel: 23 ½"



# German Dutch Flintlock Rifle, c. 1760-1780

VAFO170



- Weight: 8.0 lbs.
- Length: 44 ¼ "

- Caliber: .64
- Barrel: 28 ⅞ "



# European Jaeger Rifle, c. 1740

VAFO171

VAFO 00000171

04/30/2008



- Weight: 8.9 lbs.

- Length: 55 ¼"

- Caliber: .70

- Barrel: 40 ⅝"



# Blunderbuss

The blunderbuss was a large bore weapon that saw limited use during the American Revolution.

With its short range it was not practical on the battlefield. It was highly regarded during naval engagements, at close quarters, or employed as a defensive weapon.

# American Blunderbuss, c. 1750-1780

VAFO177



- Weight: 10.0 lbs.
- Length: 39 ¼"

- Caliber: 1½" bore
- Barrel: 23 ¼"



# English Blunderbuss, c. 1740

VAFO179



- Weight: 6.0 lbs.
- Length: 30  $\frac{5}{8}$ "

- Caliber: 1  $\frac{3}{8}$ " bore
- Barrel: 15  $\frac{1}{2}$ "



# Wall Gun

The wall gun or “amulette” was an oversized musket that was emplaced on a fortification. The bore diameter was too small to be considered an artillery piece but also too large to be a shoulder fired weapon. These firearms would weigh between thirty and fifty pounds.

# English Wall Gun, c. 1735-1750

VAFO181



- Weight: 32.0 lbs.  
- Length: 72"

- Caliber: 1.05"  
- Barrel: 54"



# For More Information

If you are interested in learning more about these weapons or the  
George C. Neumann Collection contact:

The Museum Staff  
Valley Forge National Historical Park  
1400 North Outer Line Drive  
King of Prussia, PA 19426

610-783-1034

or

*<http://www.nps.gov/vafo/contacts.htm>*

